

WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, January 21, 2016

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on Thursday, January 21, at 5:31 p.m. by Forrest Ridgway.

Commission	Heather Schebel	Rick Swalwell	Forrest Ridgway	Aaron Sewell	Joe Hrdlicka
Present	X		X	X	X

Staff	Susan Mathews <i>Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary</i>	Sally Ortgies <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Gary Scott <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>
Present	X	X	X	X

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Hrdlicka moved to approve the agenda as presented. Schebel seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Election of Board Officers

Ridgway proposed the following:

- A. Chair - Hrdlicka
- B. Vice-Chair - Schebel
- C. Secretary - Sewell

Sewell moved to approve the officers as proposed. Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried.

Hrdlicka thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the new Chair.

On Item 3. Citizen Forum

- A. Presentation – Troy Halbur – 4956 Waterford Drive Encroachment

Halbur not present. Scott informed the Board that Halbur spoke with the City Attorney today verbally agreed to remove his basketball court and therefore he may have decided not to attend.

On Item 4. Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2015 Meeting

Ridgway moved to approve the minutes as presented. Schebel seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 5. Old Business

No items.

New Business:

On Item 6A. Motion – Recommendation to City Council – Tobacco-Free Parks

Hrdlicka noted that the Facilities Committee met last week and considered the issue of tobacco-free parks. Scott noted that staff recommends a change to the City Code because that allows for enforcement where a policy does not. Hrdlicka noted that the promotion of health, the positive example for youth and the environmental impacts were some of the motivating factors.

Ridgway moved to recommend to City Council approval of Tobacco-Free Parks. Sewell seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 6B. Motion – Recommendation to City Council – Renaming of the WDM Community Center
Hrdlicka noted that the addition of the Westside Senior Center in the Valley Junction area has caused some confusion and renaming of the WDM Community Center would help reduce that confusion. Scott added that staff brainstormed potential names and narrowed it down to what best describes the location and purpose of the facility.

Ridgway moved to recommend to City Council the name: Valley Junction Activity Center. Sewell seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 6C. Annual Report – WDM Aquatic Centers and Community Center

Mark Brewick, WDM Parks & Recreation

Brewick gave an overview and highlights of the 2015 pool season. Brewick shared that private businesses have been impacting staff hiring and has resulted in a shortage of lifeguards. He spoke about maintenance and repairs that have been or will be completed prior to the 2016 season. Ridgway asked if Adventureland's water park has impacted the WDM Aquatic Centers. Brewick responded that they have a lot of amenities and their season packages are appealing but that any business offering similar services can act as competition. The Board discussed various methods to decrease expenses and increase revenue. Russ Trimble, WDM City Council, suggested decreasing the days the aquatic centers are open or investing additional money on attractive amenities. Schebel suggested adding a punch pass or similar that would offer an option between daily admission and a season pass. Scott spoke about investigating ways to increase marketing and to close the gap between expenses and revenue.

Brewick gave an overview and highlights for the WDM Community Center for 2015. Brewick shared information about the ongoing renovations that will be complete in 2016.

On Item 6D. Annual Report – RRP Softball Complex and Holiday Park Baseball Complex

Bruce Mankle, WDM Parks & Recreation

Mankle gave an overview and highlights of the 2015 season at Raccoon River Park and Holiday Park Baseball Complex. He spoke about programs, leagues, rentals and tournaments. Mankle gave information about recent facilities upgrades and upgrades taking place in 2016. Ridgway asked about the positives and negatives about the agreements with Sportsplex West and I-Cubs to provide services at Holiday Park. Mankle responded that boundaries with the contractors can be difficult when he is accustomed to being so hands-on at Raccoon River Park. Hrdlicka added that he believes that the professional level of maintenance provided will pay off in the long run.

On Item 6E. Committee/Liaison Appointments

Hrdlicka proposed the following appointments:

City Council Liaison – Chair Hrdlicka

School Board Liaison – Chair Hrdlicka

Facilities Committee – Ridgway, Schebel

Des Moines Area Trails and Greenways – Sewell

Board members accepted the appointments as proposed.

Staff Reports:

On Item 7A. Superintendent of Parks

Ortgies shared that summer seasonal hiring is about to begin. She noted that the trail at Raccoon River Park remains closed following the November flooding but that repairs will begin as soon as weather allows. Ortgies added that the emergency call boxes have now been removed from the trail around Blue Heron Lake. She added that staff have been very busy assisting with City-wide snow removal efforts. Staff will be submitting a grant application to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to assist with green water quality initiatives at Woodland Hills Park.

On Item 7B. Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen shared that the brochure for summer is in the process of being edited now and that resident registration begins March 8. He added that in cooperation with Historic Valley Junction foundation, staff have placed a bid to host the Jazz in July grand finale on July 30. Hansen also shared that Mayor's Bike Ride information will be coming soon.

On Item 7C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Scott shared that with the new technology installed in the City Council Chambers the Board has the option available to televise meetings if they would like. Scott noted that due to the lack of traffic on the City website viewing minutes and agendas he would recommend not implementing televised meetings at this time. The Board agreed that at this time the posting of agendas and minutes is sufficient. Scott gave information about the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget in advance of the City Council workshop taking place on Saturday. Scott stated that he spoke to Library Director Darryl Eschete who said that the Library Board will be having a conference call with the consultants to discuss additional survey and data collection for a future special referendum. The Board discussed items to be covered in a workshop with City Council regarding the possibility of a referendum for Parks & Recreation projects.

On Item 8. Other Matters

No items.

Receive, File and/or Refer:

On Item 9A. City Council Communications

December 28, 2015: Motion – Approval of Sublease – Office Space at Community Center

December 28, 2015: Motion – Approval of contracts for the *Art on the Trail* finalist

Ridgway moved to adjourn. Schebel seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mathews
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

Aaron Sewell
Advisory Board Secretary